

# THE ULSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

SESSION 1940 - 41

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LAST year, owing to the war, all activities of the Society were suspended, with the exception of a clinical meeting at the Royal Victoria Hospital. In this session, however, the Council have decided to restart the meetings. At first it was thought that through lack of material these meetings would probably be more infrequent than usual, but the presence of a large number of medical men in the armed forces in Northern Ireland has led to close co-operation between the Ulster Medical Society, the British Medical Association, and these medical services. The result has been that a combined programme has been arranged. This includes papers and clinical meetings. Several changes were made to facilitate a better attendance at meetings. The first was that meetings will be on Wednesday instead of Thursday. The second was that the times of meetings should alternate as far as possible—8 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. Thirdly, meetings will be held at least once per month, and if sufficient material is forthcoming, they will be more frequent.

The opening meeting was held on Wednesday, 9th October, at 8 p.m. In the absence through illness of Dr. McCloy, Sir Thomas Houston presided, and introduced the president for the year, Mr. T. S. S. Holmes, and invested him with the chain of office. Mr. Holmes thanked Sir Thomas Houston for his remarks and the Society for their honour in electing him their president. He then read the names of those who had passed away since the last presidential meeting, and the fellows and members and visitors stood as a token of respect.

Mr. Holmes then delivered a most interesting address on "The Incidence of Abortion in the Jubilee Hospital." He stressed the increase in this condition, saying that fifteen years ago four hundred cases had been admitted to this hospital, while last year the number had increased to one thousand. Mr. Holmes dealt with the causes—criminal, toxic, and pelvic. He emphasised the difficulties in preventing the criminal abortion; the duties of the Government in coping with bad diets and housing as a cause; and the treatment of the pelvic conditions predisposing to abortion.

A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Professor C. G. Lowry and seconded by Professor W. J. Wilson. Mr. Holmes then suitably replied.

H. HILTON STEWART,

*Hon. Secretary.*

18 Malone Road, Belfast.